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## Subpart A—General

### § 218.1 Introduction.

This part tells when a person's entitlement to a monthly railroad retirement annuity begins and ends. Ordinarily, an annuity begins on the earliest date permitted under the Railroad Retirement Act (Act). This part also tells when and how a person may select a later beginning date. Included is an explanation of how work and certain types of special payments affect the beginning date of an employee or spouse annuity.

### § 218.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

*Applicant* means a person who signs an application for an annuity for himself, herself or for some other person.

*Application* means a form described in part 217 of this chapter.

*Award* means to process a form to make a payment.

*Claimant* means the person for whom an annuity application is filed.

*Filing date* means the date on which an application or written statement is filed with the Board.

*Tier I benefit* means the benefit calculated using the Social Security formulas and is based upon earnings, both in and outside the railroad industry.

*Tier II benefit* means the benefit calculated under a formula found in the Act and is based only upon railroad earnings.

### § 218.3 When an employee disappears.

(a) *General*. If an employee who is entitled to an annuity disappears, the employee annuity ends on the last day of the month before the month of the disappearance.

(b) *Employee has a current connection*.

(1) The Board may pay survivor benefits from the month of the employee's disappearance if both of the following conditions are met at the time of the disappearance:

(i) The employee has a current connection with the railroad industry as defined in part 216 of this chapter, and

(ii) The employee's spouse is entitled, or would have been entitled if he or she had filed an application, to a spouse annuity in the month that the employee disappeared.